The installed capacity of urea has now reached the level of 210.79 LMT while the highest level of its consumption in the country was 202.78 LMT during 1999-2000. In the case of DAP which is decontrolled and decanalised fertilizer, the installed capacity is now 69.40 LMT against the highest level of consumption of 69.37 LMT during 1999-2000, and its imports are, however, regulated by market forces.

Settlement funds for Bhopal gas victims

1066. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICMR carried out research on the effect of gas exposure in Bhopal based on which official agencies and the Supreme Court have concluded that population from only 36 wards of Bhopal Municipal Corporation area was affected;

(b) if so, whether Government called a meeting on Bhopal disaster on June 7th 2002 to discuss balance of settlement fund of Rs. 1360 Crores which was attended by the representatives of concerned Ministries and the MP from Bhopal;

(c) if so, whether the meeting concluded that all people from all the 56 wards would be entitled to funds; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In 1985, on the basis of a detailed survey, the State Government had declared 36 wards in Bhopal as gas affected area. In studies conducted, based on mortality and morbidit figures, the ICMR sub-categorized the 36 wards as severely affected, moderately affected and mildly affected.

(b) In the meeting held on 7th June 2002, issue of utilization of balance money lying with RBI out of compensation funds was also discussed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to (c) above.